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VTrans Names Michele Boomhower Director of Policy, Planning and Intermodal Development

MONTPELIER, Vt.—December 16, 2014--- Michele Boomhower will succeed Chris Cole as Director of Policy, Planning and Intermodal Development (PPAID) for the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans). Boomhower currently serves as the Assistant/MPO Director for the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC). In addition to serving as a senior policy advisor, and overseeing planning for the VTrans, her portfolio will also include Vermont's rail, aviation and public transit programs.

"Michele is a fantastic addition to our team here at VTrans," said Deputy Secretary of Transportation Sue Minter. "As director of the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Michele played a critical role in some of the largest planning efforts in the history of the state. There are few who know the process and the players as well as she does and I'm looking forward to the new energy she will bring to the agency."

"As a generational Vermonter I am keenly aware of the governmental and community challenges to meeting the transportation system needs of our citizens, businesses and visitors to our State," said Michele Boomhower. "Vermont and the nation are facing transportation funding challenges going forward; we will need to implement innovative policies and practices to meet the needs. I am excited to be a part of identifying and delivering those solutions."

"It's been a true pleasure to have worked with Michele over the past six years," Said CCRPC Director, Charles Baker. "She has greatly contributed to positive change and creative solutions to the issues facing Chittenden County, including the Circ Alternatives and the completion of our ECOS Plan. We all will miss her at CCRPC, but look forward to much more success working with her in her new role at VTrans."

"Michele has provided invaluable service to our board, our organization and our member municipalities for the past six years," said CCRPC Board Chair Andy Montroll. "Although we are sorry to see her leave the CCRPC, we're pleased Michele is joining VTrans where her knowledge, skills and professionalism will have a broader, statewide reach."

As Assistant/MPO Director for the CCRPC, Michele spearheaded the organization's federally funded metropolitan transportation planning program. She led the program through the merger of the CCRPC and the CCMPO where she served as Executive Director from 2008 to 2011; led the integration of the FHWA required Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) into the organization's nationally recognized ECOS Sustainability Plan which combined the MTP, the state required Regional Plan, and the Federal Economic Development Agency required Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy; oversaw the 2011 Tropical Storm Irene statewide local transportation recovery response for municipal governments in coordination with Vermont's 10 RPC's; and led efforts to deliver comprehensive transportation systems solutions through the 2011-2013 Circumferential Highway Alternatives Task Force Process which resulted in the replacement of a 50+ year project with a suite of 34 projects to reduce congestion in this heavily traveled corridor. Michele serves as an appointee of the Governor on the Vermont Rail Council.

Prior to joining CCRPC Michele was employed by the Lamoille County Planning Commission where she held various positions spanning 15 years, including 9 years as the organization's Executive Director. Michele has also worked for the State of Vermont Natural Resources Board District Environmental Commission #7 Act 250 office in St. Johnsbury, the State of Vermont Divisions of Water Quality and Forestry and the UVM Entomology Research Laboratory.